

Parks & Recreation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: David Tubiolo

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, June 7, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with the Committees on Budget & Appropriations and Public Works & Transportation

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair, Ruth Walter called the meeting to order at 11:24 AM.

Pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, "Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency," which temporarily suspends portions of the New York State Open Meetings Law.

A section of the order, "Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar services," provides for the suspension of "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed."

Others in Attendance: BOL: Catherine Borgia, Chris Johnson, Alessandra Restiano, James Silverberg, Elizabeth LoBello, Melanie Montalto BOL Remote: Nancy Barr, Kitley Covill, Jose Alvarado, Margaret Cunzio, Vedat Gashi, Alfreda Williams PARKS Remote: Kathy O'Connor, Peter Tartaglia, Ken Uhle DPW/T Remote: Robert Abbamont

Present: Legislator Boykin and Committee Vice-Chair Walter

Remote: Committee Chair Tubiolo, Legislator Maher, Legislator Parker and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

April 19, 2021 at 10 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

April 26, 2021 at 10 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

May 3, 2021 at 10 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

May 17, 2021 at 10 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was

approved. The motion carried unanimously.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[RES-2021-121](#) ENV RES-RBR04-Bronx River Reservation

AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTION determining that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from Capital Project RBR04 - Bronx River Reservation.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & RECREATION

Joint with B&A and PW&T

Guests: Commissioner O'Connor and First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia - Parks & Recreation

Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Robert Abbamont - Public Works & Transportation
Commissioner O'Connor, First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia from the Department of Parks and Ken Uhle Capital Program Coordinator for the Department of Public Works appeared before the joint committee to discuss RBR04- Bronx River Reservation. This is an amended Bond Act in the amount of \$6,850,000 which includes \$650,000 in previously authorized bonds to finance the cost of design, construction and construction management of a paved pathway along the Bronx River Reservation, including the construction of a new pathway along the County's Bronx River Reservation from Midland Avenue to the Cross County Parkway and rehabilitation of the existing pathway from the Cross County Parkway to Oak Street. Work will include all infrastructure, site work, bridge construction, grading, drainage and associated landscaping. This will complete the pathway along the entire length of the Bronx River Reservation from the Kensico Dam Plaza to the Bronx line. It is a popular pathway and heavily used for hiking, biking and walking. Design is underway and expected to be complete by the 3rd quarter of 2021 and is being done by consultants. It is estimated that the construction will take 18 months to complete once the contracts have been awarded. Legislator Walter discussed that she had a concern regarding the section of the path that goes down the side of Scout field and under the MTA bridge. She didn't think it would happen because she heard that it is very difficult to get things approved by the MTA. She noted there needs to be a safety fence is that envisioned because you have open access to the train tracks. She asked the department is that something you guys have looked at? O'Connor and First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia discussed that they believe that this issue has been looked at. They would have to look back at the drawings to confirm. Commissioner O'Connor said that they would never do something that would be so accessible to the train tracks. So I'm sure it has been discussed, but she will confirm and get back to the members. Legislator Walter asked about the upkeep of the area. Is it County responsibility or MTA? Mr. Tartaglia mentioned he believes it is County responsibility but he will conform and get back to the Legislator. Legislator Walter discussed that there is a lot that says that is in a low water table. Do you have any flood mitigation as part of this project? She noted that we have lots of flooding down in that area. Mr. Uhle responded that I don't think there's any particular flood mitigation measures when we are close to the river. There are some retaining walls just to allow for the pathway to be installed. He also added that as you get closer to Oak Street some areas that are going to be cleared. The bases will be leveled out and some native grass planting installed. 500 Shrubs and 100 trees will be planted. Legislator Walter would like the Department to take a second look at the mitigation plan with the Planning Department to make sure all preventative measures will be put in place.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Boykin, the above item was signed by committee to the Board of Legislators committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Boykin and Committee Vice-Chair Walter

Remote: Committee Chair Tubiolo, Legislator Maher, Legislator Parker and Legislator Shimsky

[ACT-2021-102](#) BOND ACT(Amended)-RBR04-Bronx River Reservation

A BOND ACT (Amended) authorizing the issuance of an additional SIX MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$6,200,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RBR04 - Bronx River Reservation.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & RECREATION

Joint with B&A and PW&T

Guests: Commissioner O'Connor and First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia - Parks & Recreation

Program Coordinator (Capital Planning) Robert Abbamont - Public Works & Transportation

Please refer to item #1.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the above item was signed by committee to the Board of Legislators committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Boykin and Committee Vice-Chair Walter

Remote: Committee Chair Tubiolo, Legislator Maher, Legislator Parker and Legislator Shimsky

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Maher, the above item was adjourned at 11:55 AM. The motion carried unanimously.